

IN THE PRESS.

H A N D - B O O K
OF
WORLD-ENGLISH:
INSTRUCTIONS, EXERCISES, AND READINGS
IN THE
NEW ORTHOGRAPHY.

BY
ALEXANDER MELVILLE BELL,
Author of "Visible Speech," &c., &c., &c.

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THE
UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE
REFERENCE

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PROLOGUE.

CONDUCTORS of the Press have the power of greatly facilitating the object of this work, by making it known ; or of retarding it, by simply ignoring the effort. Opposition is not to be looked for from any quarter.

There can be no doubt that phonetic writing of English is capable of an immense influence for good, both at home,—in our schools and among the illiterate—and abroad, by world-wide diffusion of intellectual benefits through practical acquaintance with the English language. The Press can determine whether this popular installation of “World-English” shall be immediately successful, or whether it must force its slow way against the impediment of mere inertia.

To the Press, on both sides of the Atlantic, this Work is dedicated, in hope that enlightened “periodical” assistance will not be wanting for public good.

WORLD-ENGLISH.

(1) No language could be invented for International use that would surpass English, in grammatical simplicity, and in general fitness to become the tongue of the World. The only drawback to extension of English has been its difficult and unsystematic spelling. This is, however, established in its literature; and any attempt to remodel the general orthography of the language would fail to have the slightest hope of success. But such alteration is not necessary. A way is open by which orthographic obstacles in the path of learners may be removed.

(2) In the scheme herein presented the spelling of what may now be called "Literary English" is left absolutely untouched. "World-English" offers a free field for all needed improvements. National reverence for the glorious associations with the forms of our words will not, therefore, interfere with universal diffusion of the words themselves.

(3) English is mother-tongue to rapidly increasing millions, in both hemispheres; and some knowledge of the language is demanded by all educated populations on the globe. Social and commercial necessities require that the acquisition of this knowledge shall be facilitated by removal of every impediment.

(4) The Roman alphabet—although both redundant and incomplete—established as it is, cannot be displaced. But, for popular purposes, it must be cured of its defects. With superfluous letters discarded, and new letters introduced for unrepresented sounds, the anomalies which alone have made English difficult to learners, will disappear, and the beautiful simplicity of the language will become fully apparent.

(5) The Governments of English-speaking nations have a duty to perform in this matter. Let them give recognition to the amended scheme of letters, introduce it in primary schools, and—through their various agencies—spread abroad the means of teaching this unrivaled speech to every People.

(6) World-English is designed to be as little unlike Literary English as possible, so that the former may be used in schools as an introduction to the latter. This is very important; for, in order to leave present orthography undisturbed, a simpler mode of writing is absolutely necessary for beginners. Two forms of the written language must thus be equally acknowledged; one for lower classes of scholars, the other for higher classes. World-English is the *initiatory* form, from which pupils will be graded, in due course, into the literary form.

(7) But World-English has also a wider applicability. It aspires, in fact, to be, by natural adaptation, THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE,—for which vague desires have long been entertained, although, hitherto, only futile efforts have been made. World-English, thus, supplies a convenient method for teaching children and illiterate adults to read; while it furnishes, besides, a simple and all-sufficient permanent form of the language, for non-scholastic learners, and for foreigners throughout the world.

WORLD-ENGLISH LETTERS AND SOUNDS.

Old Letters Retained.

(8) The following seventeen Consonant letters, associated with their customary sounds, are retained in the World-English alphabet:

b, d, f, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z.

(9) The following Consonant letter is now associated with a fixed sound instead of with fluctuating sounds :

g, as in go.

(10) The five Vowel letters are now associated with fixed instead of fluctuating sounds :

a, as in an.

e, as in ell.

i, as in in.

o, as in on.

u, as in up.

(11) The following four of the vowel letters,—discriminated by the mark [—]—denote the “long” sounds of the letters :

ā, as in ale.

ē, as in eel.

ō, as in old.

ū, as in rude, too, &c.

(12) The following four letters,—discriminated by the mark [.]—denote specific vowel sounds :

â, as in ask.

ê, as in err.

ô, as in ore.

û, as in pull, to, &c.

(13) The following letter,—discriminated by the mark [..]—denotes a specific vowel sound :

ä, as in air.

New Letters.

(14) The following modification of the letter i is introduced for the “long” sound of I: [See par. 19.]

l, as in isle.

(15) The following nine new Consonant letters have been added for sounds hitherto unrepresented in the alphabet: [See par. 20, 23-27.]

- ç ch, as in church.
 ş sh, in she; [ci in social, ti in nation, &c.]
 z [zh]; s, in pleasure, z, in azure, g, in rouge.
 t th, in thin.
 d [dh], th, in then.
 w wh, in when.
 u [yh], h, in hue.
 g ng, in sing, [n, in ink, finger, &c.]
 r, when not before a vowel.

Discarded Letters.

(16) The following three letters have been discarded from the alphabet: *

- c, because having the same sound as k, or s.
- q, because having the same sound as k.
- x, because having the same sounds as ks, or gz.

Sounds of the Letters.

(17) In this Alphabetical Scheme ten of the letters are slightly modified forms of ordinary letters, and twenty-three are altogether unaltered. The latter have the same phonetic values in World-English as in Literary English; with this important distinction that the sound associated with any letter never varies, while, in Literary English, the sounds of the greater number of the letters are constantly varying. In World-English every sound has one fixed representative; and every letter has one fixed sound.

(18) The five vowel letters a, e, i, o, u, represent the most usual sounds of these letters; and the other sounds of the same letters are distinguished by customary marks.

(19) The letter i being inconveniently narrow to carry the sign of a "long" sound [-] an *elongated* form of the letter is used for the name-sound of I. [See par. 14.]

* The discarded letters are, of course, available for foreign sounds.

Forms of the New Letters.

(20) In devising the forms of the new letters, the aim has been to combine suggestiveness with simplicity. These letters perform a grand service in World-English. The first six of the new consonant letters uniformly add *a short line* to the ordinary forms of c, s, z, t, d, w; thus showing the relation of the new letters to the old orthography, in which the letter h stands for the short line; as in ch, sh, zh, th, dh, wh.

(21) The discarded letter c might have been used instead of the first new letter, but for the violence it would have done to old associations, in such combinations as nacun, vicus, for nation, vicious.

(22) The Greek "theta," or the Anglo-Saxon character for th, might have been used instead of the fourth new letter; but the principle on which the other letters are formed furnishes, in t, a character of extreme simplicity, and one which harmonizes better with the rest of the alphabet.

(23) The fifth new letter [d] shows that the relation of its sound to that of the preceding is the same as that of d to t.

(24) The sound of the sixth new letter [w] is simply a non-vocal w, and not a combination of h and w, as the old orthography erroneously suggests.

(25) The sound of the seventh new letter [y] is a non-vocal y.

(26) The eighth new letter [ŋ] combines the commencement of an n with the termination of a g, and thus fitly represents the established sound of ng.

(27) The ninth new letter [r] is necessary to distinguish between the Consonant sound, and the more common non-consonantal sound of the letter r. The consonant (r) is heard only before a vowel.

Phonetic Memoranda.

(28) The sound of the letter U, as in "use," is written, as it is pronounced, with initial Y [yū].

(29) Y and W, which in Literary English are very frequently employed as auxiliary Vowel-signs, are never so used in World-English. These letters invariably stand for their Consonant sounds, as heard in "yes" and "way."

(30) The diphthong in "out," "now," &c., is composed of the sounds of *â* and *ù*. [See par. 12.]

(31) The diphthong in "oil," "boy," &c., is composed of the sounds of *o* and *i*. [See par. 10.]

(32) The indefinite sound of unaccented *a*, as in *a*, *sofa*, *alone*, does not require any special mark to distinguish it from *a*. [See "unaccented vowels," p. 23.]

(33) The forms of the physiological symbols of "Visible Speech" have not been drawn on to fill the gaps in the Roman alphabet; for the reason that every part of every symbol in that system is significant, and the characters, if borrowed, could not have carried with them their full meaning.

Object of the World-English Alphabet.

(34) The reader will observe that this scheme of letters is intended merely to facilitate English reading. For this purpose common letters are utilized to the greatest possible extent. The alphabet is limited to the elements of normal pronunciation. The sounds, for example, of *a*, in *an*, *ale*, *air*, *ask*, *father*, may not have exactly the same quality in the utterance of all speakers. But for practical purposes these differences are disregarded.

(35) If we wanted to show the *Anglican* pronunciation of such words as "various, experience, glorious," we must write a sound which is unrepresented in common orthography; thus: "vārius, ekspēriens, glōrius;" but the words would be no longer the same to all readers; whereas normal pronunciation will be denoted for every reader by the writing "vārius, ekspēriens, glōrius."

(36) So, too, different speakers will pronounce the letter *i* (I) with diverse shades of sound; but to readers of World-English the effect is simply "name-sound of I," however variously it may be uttered.

Advantages of the World-English Alphabet.

(37) Children and illiterate persons will be very readily taught to read from the new orthography; and they will afterwards make transition to reading from Literary English almost unconsciously. A phonetic initiation—so far from being a hindrance—has been proved to be a great assistance in forming the visual memory for spelling. The difference in appearance of a word in common orthography from that in its phonetic writing fixes its outline in the reader's mind: the word becomes a picture, and is remembered as a whole. Spelling is thus always learned by eye, rather than by rule.

(38) To foreigners, World-English offers great advantages, for after merely elementary sounds have been learned from the voice of a speaker, a student, of whatever nationality, will master a correct English utterance from the writing.

English Adapted for Universality.

(39) English does not require any alteration in grammar or construction to adapt it for its great function of universality. Should the critical reader discover any particulars in which change might be improvement, the points could be embodied in future text-books. Communications on this subject will be welcomed.

Illustrations.

(40) The following illustrations exemplify World-English typography, and, at the same time, furnish a test of its spontaneous intelligibility to readers of ordinary English.

(41) The illustrations will, no doubt, be deciphered without difficulty; and the reader will, it is hoped, become increasingly sensible of prospective benefits from this mode of presenting his language—to school children—to the masses who cannot attend school—and to the multitudes eager to learn English, in foreign countries. Happily, he may, further, be disposed to coöperate in propagating the method within the sphere of his influence. A widely awakened interest, and a philanthropic spirit, may both be reasonably expected.

(42) As the reader's knowledge of Literary English enables him to understand this phonetic form of the language, so will a knowledge of World-English be found to facilitate the reading of Literary English, by foreign and other students.

EXEMPLIFICATIONS OF WORLD-ENGLISH.

[Accent is always on the first syllable, unless otherwise expressed. The accent mark is placed after the accented vowel. Capital letters are not used in these illustrations.]

numbérz			dāz and munŧs	
wun	ēle'vn	ṭérti	sundā	āpril
tū	twelv	forti	mundā	mā
ṭrē	ṭéxtēn	fifti	tyūzdā	jūn
fōr	fōrtēn	siksti	wenzdā	jūl'
fɪv	fiftēn	sevnti	ṭuɪzdā	ōgust
siks	sikstēn	āti	frɪdā	septe'mbér
sevn	sevnṭēn	nɪnti	saturdā	oktō'bér
āt	ātēn	hundred	januári	nóve'mbér
nɪn	nɪntēn	ṭáúzand	februári	dēse'mbér
ten	twenti	milyun	máɪç	

p r o l o g.

kondu'ktorz ov ɖi pres hav ɖi páúr ov grātli fasi'lítatig ɖi objekt ov ɖis wurk, bɪ mākig it nōn, or ov rētá'ɪdig it, bɪ simpli ignó'rig ɖi efort. opózi'sun iz not tū bē lúkt fōr from eni kwortér.

ɖeɪ kan wē nō dáút ɖat fōne'tik rɪtig ov ingliʃ iz kápabl ov an ime'ns influens fōr gúd, bōṭ at hōm—in áúr skúlz and amu'ɔ ɖi ilí'térāt—and abró'd, bɪ wuɪld-wɪd difyū'zun ov intele'ktyúal benifits, ṭrū praktikal akwā'ntans wiɖ ɖi ingliʃ laggwij. ɖi pres kan dētē'min weɖér ɖis popyúlár instolā'sun ov wuɪld-ingliʃ ʃal be imē'diātli suks'e'sfúl, or weɖér it must fōrs its slō wā age'nst ɖi impe'diment ov mēr iné'ɪʃya.

tū ɖi pres, on boṭ sɪdz ov ɖi atla'ntik, ɖis wurk iz dedikāted, in hōp ɖat enlɪ'tnd "pērio'dikal" asi'stans wil not bē wontig fōr publik gúd.

wurld-igglis.

nō laggwij kúd bē inve'nted for intérna'sunal yūs qat wúd surpá's igglis in grama'tikal simpli'siti and in jenéral fitnes tū bēku'm qī tug ov qī wurld. qī ōnli drōbak tū ekste'n'sun ov igglis haz bin its difikult and unsistema'tik spelig. qis iz, háue'ver, esta'blis't in its litérityú, and eni ate'mt tū rēmo'del qī jenéral or'to'grafi ov qī laggwij wúd fāl tū hav qī sljtest hōp ov suks'e's. but suq ol'térā'sun iz not nesesári. a wā iz open bī wiq or'tōgra'fik obstaklz in qī pāt ov lérné'z mā bē rēmū'vd. in qī skēm hērin prēze'nted, qī spelig ov wot mā náu bē kōld “ lit-érári igglis ” iz left absol'yútlī untu'qt. wurld-igglis oférz a frē fēld for ōl nēded imprū'vments. na'sunal revérens for qī glórius asosiā'sunz wiq qī formz ov áu' wurdz wil not, dérfor, intērfē' wiq yúnivér'sal difyū'zun ov qī wurdz qemse'lvz.

igglis iz mudér-tug tū rapidli inkre'sig milyunz in bōt hēmis-fērz; and sum nolij ov qī laggwij iz dēma'nded bī ōl edyúkated popyúlā'sunz on qī glōb. sōšal and komér'sal nēse'sitiz rēkwj' qat qis nolij šal bē fasi'litated bī rēmū'val ov evéri impe'diment.

qī rōman alfabet—oldō' bōt rēdu'ndant and inkomplēt—esta'blis't az it iz kanot bē displā'st. but for popyúlār purpusiz it must be kyúrd ov its dēfē'kts. wiq syúpé'f'liús letérz diská'ided, and nyū letérz intródy'ust for unreprēze'nted saundz, qī ano'maliz wiq alō'n hav mād igglis difikult tū lérné'z, wil disapē', and qī byūti-fúl simpli'siti ov qī laggwij wil bēku'm fūllī apā'rent.

qī guvé'nments ov igglis-spēking nāšunz hav a dyūti tū pērfo'ym in qis matér. let qem giv rekogni'sun tū qī ame'nded skēm ov letérz, intródy'us it in prj'mári skūlz, and—tū rē dé'ri vārius ajensiz—sprend abrō'd qī mēnz ov tēqig qis unq'vald spēc tū evéri pēpl.

wurld-igglis iz dēs'nd tū bē az litl unlj'k litérári igglis az posibl, so qat qī formér mā bē yūzd in skūlz az an intródu'k'sun tū qī latér. qis iz veri impo'tant; for, in ordér tū lēv prezent

ortografī undistu'ibd, a simplēr mōd ov rītig iz absolūtli nēs-esāri for bēgī'nēz. tū formz ov dī ritn laggwij must đus bē ēkwoli akno'lījd: wun for lōēr klāsiz ov skolārz, dī udēr for hjer klāsiz. wuuld-inggliš iz dī ini'syatori form, from wīq pyūpīlz wil be grāded, in đyū kōrs, intū dī litērāri form.

but wuuld inggliš has olsō a wjder aplikabi'liti. it aspi'rz, in fakt, tū bē, bī natyūral adaptā'sun, dī yunivē'sal laggwij, for wīq vāg dēzī'rz hav log bin entērtā'nd, oldō', hiđērtū, ōnli fyūtil eforts hav bin mād. wuuld-inggliš, đus, supli'z a konvēnient međud for tēčīg čildren and ili'tērāt adu'its tū rēd: wyl it fuwīsez, bēsī'dz, a simpl and ōl-sufi'sent pērmanent form ov dī laggwij, for non-skōla'stik lērnēz and for forinēz trūá'ūt dī wuuld.

dī rēdēr wil obzē'v đat đis skēm ov letēz is intēnded mēli tū fasil'itāt inggliš rēdig. for đis purpus komun letēz āi yūtilīzd tū dī grātest posibl ekste'nt. dī alfabet iz limited tū elements ov normal prōnunsia'sun. dī sāundz, for egzāmpl, ov a, in an, āl, āi, āsk, fāđēr, mā not hav egzaktli dī sām kwoliti in dī utērans ov ōl spēkēz, but for praktikal purpusiz đēz difērensiz āi disrēgā'ded.

if wē wōnted tū šō dī agglikan prōnunsia'sun ov suč wurdz az “various, experience, glorious,” wē must rīt a sāund wīq iz unreprezēnted in komun ortografī: đus “vārius, ekspē'riens, glōrius”; but dī wurdz wūd bē nō loggēr dī sām tū ōl rēdēz; wāra'z normal prōnunsia'sun wil bē dēnō'ted for evēri rēdēr bī rītig “vārius. ekspē'riens. glōrius.”

so, tū, difērent spēkēz wil pronā'ūs dī letēr 1 (I) wīđ đjvėrs šādz ov sāund; but tū rēdēz ov wuuld-inggliš dī efe'kt iz simpli “nām-sāund ov I” hāue'vēr vāriusli it mā bē utērd.

čildren and ili'tērāt pērsunz wil bē veri redili tōt tū rēd from dī nyū ortografī, and đa wil āftērwořdz māk transi'zun tū rēdig from litērāri inggliš ōlmōst unko'nšusli. a fōne'tik inišia'sun—so fāi from bēig a hindrans—haz bin prūvd tū bē a grāt asi'stans in formīg dī vizual memōri for spelīg. dī difērens in apērans

ov a wurd in komun or'fo'grafi from dat in its fōne'tik rɪtɪŋ fiksez its aūtliŋ in dɪ rēdēr'z mind: ēç wurd bēku'mz a pɪktyʊr, and iz rēme'mbērd az a hōl. spelɪŋ iz dʊs ɔlwāz lērnd bɪ lɪ rādēr dən bɪ rʊl.

tʊ forinērz wuɪld-ɪŋglɪʃ ofērz grāt adva'ntɪdʒ; fɔr, āfter mērlɪ elime'ntārɪ sɑʊndz hav bɪn lērnd from dɪ voɪs ɔv a spēkēr, a styʊdnt, ov wɒtə'veɪ nɑʃunə'lɪtɪ, wɪl mɑstər a kore'kt ɪŋglɪʃ utérans from dɪ rɪtɪŋ.

ɪŋglɪʃ dʊz not rēkwɪ'r enɪ oltērā'shun in gramər ɔr konstru'kʃun tʊ ada'pt ɪt for ɪts grāt fʊŋkʃun ov yʊnɪvərsə'lɪtɪ. ʃʊd dɪ krɪtɪkəl rēdēr dɪsku'veɪ enɪ pɑrtɪ'kyʊlɑrɪz ɪn wɪç çānj mɪt bē imprʊv'ment, dɪ poɪnts kʊd bē embo'dɪd ɪn fyʊtyʊr tekst-bʊks. kom-yʊnɪkə'shunz on dɪs subje'kt wɪl bē welkʊmd.

dɪ rēdēr haz, nō dɑʊt, az antɪ'sɪpəted, dēsɪ'fērd dēz ɪlustrā'shunz wɪdɑ'ʊt dɪfɪkʊltɪ. hē wɪl ɔlsə, ɪt ɪz hɔpt, hav bēku'm ɪnkrē'sɪŋlɪ sensɪbl ov prɒspe'ktɪv benɪfɪts from dɪs mɔd ov prēze'ntɪŋ hɪz lagwɪj,—tʊ skʊl-çɪldrən,—tʊ dɪ masɪz hʊ kənət atēnd skʊl,—and tʊ dɪ multɪtyʊdz ēgēr tʊ lērn ɪŋglɪʃ, ɪn forɪn kʊntrɪz. hɑpɪlɪ, hē mɑ, fʊrdēr, bē dɪspɔ'zd tʊ koo'pérāt ɪn prɒpəgātɪŋ dɪ meʃʊd wɪdɪ'n dɪ sfēr ov hɪz ɪnfluens. a wɪdli əwɑ'kənd ɪntérɪst and ə flən'trɒ'pɪk spɪrɪt mɑ bɔt bē rēzʊnəblɪ ɛkspe'kted.

az dɪ rēdēr'z nɒlɪj ov lɪtérərɪ ɪŋglɪʃ enə'blɪz hɪm tʊ ʊndérsta'nd dɪs fōne'tɪk rɪtɪŋ, sɔ wɪl ə nɒlɪj ov wuɪld-ɪŋglɪʃ be fɑʊnd tʊ fəsi'lɪtāt dɪ rēdɪŋ ov lɪtérərɪ ɪŋglɪʃ bɪ forɪn and ʊdər styʊdnts.

REFERENCE TABLE OF THE WORLD-ENGLISH ALPHABET.

Consonants.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Name.</i>	<i>Name.</i>
k kǎ	t . . . tē	p (sh) . . . iʃ	p pē
g gǎ	d . . . dē	z (zh) . . . iz	b bē
ŋ (ng) . . iŋ	n . . en	t (th) [thin] iʈ	m em
y (wy, or) yǎ	l . . el	ð (dh) [then] ið	f ef
ɥ (yh) [hue] ɥū	ɾ (err) éɾ	ʧ (tʃ) . . . ʧē	v vē
h (aitch, or) hǎ	r (ray) rǎ	j (dz) . . . jǎ	w (double U, or) wē
	s . . . es		ɥ (wh) . . . ɥǎ
	z . . . zē		

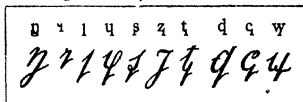
Vowels.

a an	ǎ ale	ǎ ask
e ell	ē eel	é err
i ill	ɪ isle
o on	ō old	ó ore
u up	ū rude, too	û poor, pull, to
ǎ air	ǎ ah, arm, alms	ô all

âü out

oi oil

Script Forms of the New Letters.



Capital Forms of the New Letters.

*

I ɥ S Z T ð ɥ W

* The sounds of p and ɾ never occur at the beginning of a word, in English, and these letters, therefore, require no capitals.

NOTE ON THE ALPHABET.

Many schemes of phonetic letters have been at various times proposed, but generally with the hopeless object of reforming ordinary spelling. Minor orthographic changes, such as omission of silent letters, may meet with but little opposition, but a complete removal of the anomalies of English writing would have the effect of antiquating our entire literature and would be universally resisted. No system—strange to say while the want is a crying necessity!—has yet come into general use for the separate purpose of teaching children to read. This alphabet is preëminently adapted for the work. Its power to teach words, *as they are spoken*, leaves nothing to be desired; and the resemblance of the words to those of Literary English secures the easy acquirement of the latter through the former. This method should be made the basis of primary instruction in schools; and no other form of letters should be presented until perfect facility in reading has been attained. Pupils will then need little or no help in transferring their power of reading to the literary form of the language. Let primers and early reading books now in use be reprinted in the amended alphabet, and this great educational reform—affecting only beginners at first—will be at once established, without the slightest difficulty.

Practical utility, in connection with English, has been the sole aim in this alphabetic arrangement. The letters *ɪ* and *j*, for example, represent compound sounds, because the associations are already fixed in English usage. Consistency required that the organic correspondent of *j** should likewise be represented in the alphabet. Hence the new letter *ç*. Students of phonetics, who prefer to write all compounds analytically, have only to

* The sounds of *j* and *ç* are produced by the same organic actions, the difference being that *j* is vocal, and *ç* non-vocal.

substitute *ai* for *i*, *dz* for *j*, and *tʃ* for *c*, in order to fit the alphabet for their use. The popular purpose of this work is better served by the plan adopted, because it preserves a greater likeness between the orthographies of World-English and Literary English.

The letter *x* has not been retained in the alphabet, because its sound is not uniform—like that of *j*—but is sometimes *ks*, and sometimes *gz*.

nōt ɔn ɔi alfabet.

meni skēmz ov fōne'tik letéyz hav bin at vārius tɪmz prɒpɔːzd, but jenéráli wið ɔi hōples objekt ov rēfoːmɪŋ ɔːdɪnəri spelɪŋ. mɪnɔr ɔɹtɔːgrəˈfɪk ʧānjɪz, suʧ az ɔmiˈʃʊn ov sɪlənt letéyz, mā mēt wið but litl ɒpɔːziˈʃʊn, but a komplēt rēmūˈvəl ov ɔi anoˈmalɪz ov ɪŋɡlɪʃ rɪtɪŋ wʊd hav ɔi efɛkt ov antɪkwətɪŋ ʔər entɪˈlɪ lɪtərɪtɪˈuː, and wʊd bē yʊnivɛˈɹsali rēziˈstɛd. nō sistem—strānj tʊ sā, wɪl ɔi wɒnt ɪz a krɪŋ nēseˈsɪti!—haz yet kum ɪntʊ jenéral yūs fɔɹ ɔi sepəˈrāt purpʊs ov tēʧɪŋ ʧɪldrən tʊ rɛd. ɔis alfabet ɪz prēeˈmɪnɛntli ɔdəˈptɛd fɔɹ ɔi wurk. ɪts pɑːr tʊ tēʧ wurdz az dā ʔr spōkən lɛvz nuʧɪŋ tʊ bē dēzɪˈɹd; and ɔi rēzeˈmbləns ov ɔi wurdz tʊ dɔz ov lɪtərəri ɪŋɡlɪʃ sēkyʊˈɹz ɔi ēzi ʔkwɪˈmɛnt ov ɔi latɛr tʃrʊ ɔi fɔɹmɛr. ɔis mɛtʊd ʃʊd bē mād ɔi bāsis ov prɪməri ɪnˈstruˈkʃʊn ɪn skʊl; and nō udeˈɹ fɔɹm ov letéyz ʃʊd bē prɛzeˈntɛd untiˈl pɛɹfɛkt fəsiˈlɪti ɪn rɛdɪŋ haz bin ʔtɑːnd. pyʊpɪlz wɪl dɛn nɛd litl ɔɹ nō help ɪn trənsfɛˈrɪŋ dɛr pɑːr ov rɛdɪŋ tʊ ɔi lɪtərəri fɔɹm ov ɔi laggwɪj. lɛt prɪmɛrɪz and ɛɹli rɛdɪŋ-bʊks nɑː ɪn yūs bē rɛprɪntɛd ɪn ɔi ʔmɛndɛd alfabet, and ɔis grāt ɛdɪˈyʊkəˈʃʊnəl rēfoːm—ʔfɛktɪŋ ɔnli bɛŋiˈnɛrɪz ʔt fɛɹst—wɪl bē ʔt wʊns ɛstəˈblɪʃt wɪdʔt ɔi slɪtɛst dɪfɪkʊlti.

praktɪkəl yʊtiˈlɪti ɪn kɒnɛˈkʃʊn wið ɪŋɡlɪʃ haz bin ɔi sɔl ʔm ɪn ɔis ʔfəbɛˈtɪk ʔrɑːnjmɛnt. ɔi letéyz *i* and *j*, fɔɹ ɛɡzɑːmpl, rɛrɛzeˈnt kɒmpaʊnd səʊndz, bɛkɔːz ɔi ʔsɔʃiəˈʃʊnz ʔr ɔlreˈdi fɪkst ɪn ɪŋɡlɪʃ yʊzɪj. kɒnsɪˈstɛnsɪ rɛkwɪˈɹd ɔt ɔi ɔɹɡəˈnɪk kɒrɪspɒˈndɛnt ov *j* ʃʊd lɪkwɪz bē rɛprɛzeˈntɛd ɪn ɔi alfabet. hɛns ɔi nyū

let'ɛɪ ɕ. sty'dents ov fōn'e'tiks, hʌ prɛf'eɪ tʉ ɾɪt ɔl kɒmp'aʊndz
 anal'i'tikali, hav ɔnli tʉ substityʉt ʌi fɔr'ɪ, dz fɔr'j, and tʃ fɔr'ɕ,
 in ɔrdɛɪ tʉ fit dɪ alfabet fɔr' dʒɑɪ yʉs. tʃi pɒpyʉlɑɪ pʉɾpʉs ov
 dɪs wʉrk iz bet'ɛɪ sɛɪvd bɪ dɪ plan adɔ'pted, b'ɛkɔ'z it prɛz'eɪvz ʌ
 grāt'eɪ lɪknes bɛtwē'n dɪ ɔɾtʃo'grafɪz ov wʉɪld-ɪŋglɪʃ and lit'ɛrɑɪ
 ɪŋglɪʃ.

ENGLISH SOUNDS.

The sounds of the English language have been supposed to be difficult of enunciation. The only basis for this idea is the fact that the sounds are difficult of *recognition* under the fluctuating guise of orthography. Thus, at sight of an unfamiliar word, even a practised reader is uncertain how to pronounce it; because the same combinations of letters have many different sounds in familiar words. To a foreign learner this difficulty is insuperable. Give definite and certain phonetic values to letters, and English utterance will be found to be, in no case, and in no degree, difficult to native or foreigner.

Enunciation of English is, on the contrary, in comparison with that of other languages, organically easy. Almost all early asperities have been smoothed away; but they have not been equally removed from writing; and this is one chief source of the difficulty of reading, to learners, and of spelling, to writers. All the elementary sounds will be correctly pronounced, almost at first effort, by any person to whom they are properly exemplified. The vowels in a(n), u(p), a(ll), and the consonants in th(in), th(en), h(ue), wh(y), may, perhaps, need a few repetitions by strange organs, to render them facile. The only real difficulty to speakers of other languages is the *accent*, or stress, which, in English, is always placed on the vowel of a single syllable in a word or phrase. The effect of this habit of utterance is rather to render indefinite the sounds of allied unaccented syllables, than to give force to the accented syllables. This fact must be borne in mind by foreign learners. The true effect of

unaccented vowels will be produced by giving such letters a care-
less *approximation* to their ordinary sounds. Thus *a*, in *about*,
comma, &c., is not pretisely either *à* or *â*, but—indefiniteness of
unaccented sound being understood—the vowel does not require
a more exact orthography than “*a*.” In such words as *between*,
receive, *secede*, the same vowel occurs in both syllables, but it
will always be heard with an unwritten difference, being less pre-
cise in the unaccented than in the accented syllable. The termi-
nations in *certain*, *fountain*, *foreign*, *cottage*, *courage*, *language*,
college, *knowledge*, &c., are regularly contracted to *-in*, *-ij*, and
are so printed in *World-English*. Unaccented *â* finds its equiva-
lent in *à*; unaccented *ō* in *ô*; unaccented *ô* in *o*; and unaccented
ū in *ù*; A foreigner may, for a time, be more or less unsucces-
ful in acquiring the knack of accentual pronunciation, and in
giving the precise quality to some elementary sound, but he will
have no difficulty whatever in making his English utterance per-
fectly intelligible. It may still proclaim his foreign birth—as
the speech of those born to the language proclaims their county
or their State—but it will, none the less, be good English, ser-
viceable wherever the language is spoken.

iggliſ ſaündz.

đi ſaündz ov đi iggliſ laggwij hav bin supō'zd tū bē difikult ov
ēnunsia'ſun. đi ōnli bāsis for đis đdē'a iz đi fakt đat đi ſaündz
ā difikult ov rekogni'ſun undēr đi fluktyuātig gɪz ov oɪtə'grafi.
đus, at sɪt ov an unfam'iɪyā wuɪd, ēvn a praktist rēdēr iz unsēr-
tin hāu tū prōnā'uns it, bēkō'z đi sām kombinā'ſunz ov letērz hav
meni diferent ſaündz in fam'iɪyā wuɪdz. tū a forin lērnēr
đis difikulti iz insyū'pérabl. giv definit and sētin fōne'tik
valyúz tū letērz, and iggliſ utérans wil bē fáund tū bē, in nō
kās, and in nō dēgrē', difikult tū nativ oɪ forinēr.

ēnunsia'ſun ov iggliſ iz, on đi kontrari, in kompā'risun wiđ đat
ov udēr laggwijiz, oɪgā'nikali ēzi. ōlmōst ōl ēɪli aspe'ritiz hav
bin smūqd awā', but đā hav not bin ēkwoli rēmū'vd from rɪtɪŋ;

and dis iz wun qēf sōrs ov dī difikulti ov rēdig, tū lērnēz, and ov spelig, tū rjtēz. ōl dī elime'ntāri sāundz wil be kore'ktli prōnā'ūnst, ōlmōst at fērst ēfort, bī enī pērsun tū hūm dā āi propē'li egze'mplifd. dī vāuelz in an, ūp, ōl; and dī kon-sōnants in tīn, dēn, qū, wī; mā, pēi'ha'ps, nēd a fyū repiti'sunz bī strānj or'ganz, tū rendēi dēm fasil. dī ōnli 'real difikulti tū spēkēz ov udēi laggwijiz iz dī *aksent*, or stres, wiç, in iggliç, iz ōlwāz plāst on dī vāuel ov a siggl silabl in a wurd or frāz. dī efe'kt ov dīs habit ov utērans iz rādēi tū rendēi inde'finit dī sāundz ov alī'd unakse'nted silablz dān tū giv fōrs tū akse'nted silablz. dīs fakt must be bōrn in mīnd bī forin lērnēz. dī trū efe'kt ov unakse'nted vāuelz wil be prōdyū'st bī mē'li givig suç letēz a kāyles aproksimā'sun tū dēr ordināri sāundz. dūs a, in about, comma, &c., iz not prēs'sli ēdēi a or ā; but—in-de'finitnes ov unakse'nted sāund bēig undē'stūd—dī vāuel duz not rēkwī'r a mōr egza'kt or'fō'grafi dān "a." in suç wurdz az bētwe'n, rēsē'v, sēsē'd, dī sām vāuel oku'z in bōt silablz, but it wil ōlwāz be hērd wiç an unri'tn difērens, bēig les prēs's in dī unakse'nted dān in dī akse'nted silabl. dī tērminā'sunz in cer-tain, fountain, foreign, cottage, courage, language, &c., āi reg-yūlārli kontra'kted tū -in, -ij, and āi sō ritn in wuld-iggliç. unakse'nted ā fīndz its ekwi'valent in ā; unakse'nted ō in ō; un-akse'nted ô in o; and unakse'nted ū in ū. a forinēi mā, for a tīm, bē mōr or les unsukse'sfūl in akwī'rig dī nak ov akse'ntyūal prōnunsīā'sun, or in givig its prēs's kwoliti tū sum elime'ntāri sāund; but hē wil hav nō difikulti wote'vēr in mākiç hiz iggliç utērans pērfekti inte'lījibl. it mā stil prōklām hiz forin bēit—az dī spēc ov dōz boīn tū dī laggwij prōklāmz dāi kāūnti or dēi stāt—but it wil, nun dī les, bē gūd iggliç, sērvisabl wāre'vēr dī laggwij iz spōken.

UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE.

The idea of Universal Language has always been a fascinating one. Bishop John Wilkins gave shape to it, in England, in his

"Philosophical Language" published in 1668. This most ingenious scheme included a system of ideographic symbols, forming a "Real Character," translatable into the words of any language; and also an Alphabetic method, in which the relations of ideas were expressed by adding significant letters as prefixes or suffixes to arbitrary root-syllables. The plan was too elaborate for popular comprehension, and no attempt has ever been made to bring either of its forms into use.

Recently, a scheme in some respects resembling the alphabetic method of Bishop Wilkins, has been brought forward under the name of "Volapük." This system is said to have been favourably received in Germany, and elsewhere in Europe. The root-syllables in Volapük are selected from the words of existing languages; and, by means of prefixed or postfixed letters, they are made to express distinctions of gender, number, case, person, voice, mood, tense, &c. The result is a highly inflected language, involving a multitude of details to be constantly attended to, and requiring the user to be an expert grammarian.

If these are the models on which a universal language is to be built, we need look no further than to the "Philosophical Language" or to "Volapük;" but a speaker of English, happily emancipated as he is from vexations of verbal inflection, repudiates the models. The English language has been, itself, steadily reaching out towards universality. It has covered the North American continent and the islands of the antipodes. It has become a necessity wherever English or American navigators penetrate. India, China, and Japan are teaching it in their schools. Commerce has invented a barbarous variety of it as a Port-language, called "Pigeon-English;" and, but for want of an explicit system of letters, it would, long ere this, have fully filled its destined place. One of the chief qualifications of English for its grand future is that its learner has only to memorise *words*, and that he has no need to think, or know, anything of

the grammatical subtleties that are essential to the use of the artificial languages.

World-English presents the English language—made intelligible, equally, to all readers—by means of a simple and consistent mode of writing. The supposed necessity for a new International language will be entirely superseded by furnishing English with this alphabetic passport to universal acceptance.

yūnivē'isal laggwij.

qī jdē'a ov yūnivē'isal laggwij has ōlwāz bin a fasinātig wun. bišop jon wilkinz gāv šāp tū it, in iggland, in hiz “filōso'fikal laggwij” publišt in 1668. qīs mōst injē'nus skēm inklūdēd a sistem ov jdēōgrā'fik simbolz formig a “rēal karaktēr,” translāt-
abl intū qī wurdz ov eni laggwij; and olsó an alfabe'tik meṭud, in wiç qī rēlā'sunz ov jdē'az wēr ekspre'st bī adig signi'fikant letērz az prēfiksiz or sufiksiz tū ārbitrāri rūt-silablz. qī plan woz tū ēlā'bōrāt for popyūlār komprēhe'nšun, and no ate'mt haz evēr bin mād tū brig ēdēr ov its formz intū yūs.

rēsenti, a skēm in sum rēspe'kts rēze'mblig qī alfabe'tik meṭud ov bišop wilkinz, haz bin brōt forwōrd undēr qī nām ov “vōlā-pūk.” qīs sistem iz sed tū hav bin fāvurabli rēsē'vd in jērmani, and elswār in yūrōp. qī rūt-silablz in vōlāpūk ār sēle'kted from wurdz ov egzi'stig laggwijiz; and, bī mēnz ov prēfiks or pōstfiks letērz, qā ār mād tū ekspre's disti'gkšunz ov jendēr, numbēr, kās, pērsun, vois, mūd, tens, &c. qī rēzu't iz a hīli infle'kted laggwij, invo'lving a multityūd ov dētālz tū bē konstantli ate'nded tū, and rēkwirig qī yūzēr tū bē an ekspē'it gramā'rian.

if dēz ār qī modelz on wiç a yūnivē'isal laggwij iz tū bē bilt, wē nēd lūk nō furdēr dan tū qī “filōso'fikal laggwij,” or tū “vōlāpūk;” but a spēkēr ov iggliš, hapili ēma'nspāted az hē iz from veksā'šunz ov vērbal infle'kšun, rēpyū'diāts qī modelz. iggliš haz bin itse'lf stedili rēçiḡ āūt tōrdz yūnivē'sal'iti. it haz kuvērd qī norṡ ame'rikan kontinent, and qī ḡlandz ov qī

anti'pódēz. it haz bēku'm a nēse'siti wāre'vēr inggliṣ or amēri-
kan navigātorz penitrāt. • india, čīna, and japa'n ā tēciṡ it in
dēi škūlz. komēis haz invēntēd a bārbārus vārjetī ov it az a
pōrt-laggwīj, kōld "pijun-inggliṣ;" and, but for wont ov an eks-
pli'sit sistem ov letērz, it wūd, loḡ ār dīs, hav fūlli fild its destind
plās. wun'ov dī cēf kwolifikā'sunz ov inggliṣ for its grand
fyūtyūr iz dāt its lērnēi haz ōnli tū memōriz wurdz, and dāt hē
haz nō nēd tū ɥipk, or nō, eniɥiḡ ov dī grama'tikal sutltiz dāt ār
ese'nṣal tū yūs ov dī ārtifi'sal lāggwījiz.

wūld-inggliṣ prēze'nts dī inggliṣ laggwīj—mād inte'lijibl, ēkwoli
tū ōl rēdērz—bī mēnz ov a simpl and konsi'stent mōd ov rɥtiḡ.
dī supōzd nēse'siti for a nyū intērna'sunal laggwīj wil bē entɥili
syūpērsē'ded bī furniṣiḡ inggliṣ wiḡ dīs alfabe'tik pāspōrt tū yūni-
vē'sal akse'ptans.

Spelling Reform.

With this phonetic system of World-English to remove diffi-
culties of initiation in reading, and to furnish a key to pronuncia-
tion, there will be less need for striving after reform in ordinary
spelling. To "reform it altogether" would be beyond the scope
of orthographic reformers generally; yet nothing less than this
would make our writing phonetic. Spelling must remain a sep-
arate art, pictorial in its nature, and learned chiefly by eye.
Nevertheless, many changes may be made to simplify the outlines
of words and render them more easy of remembrance. The
silent letter in the terminations -our, -and -ous, for example, may
with advantage be omitted; but, unfortunately, spelling "reform-
ers" have been already at work on the first of these syllables, and
have actually omitted the spoken letter and retained the silent
one! Thus, favour, labour, vigour, are, in America, very gen-
erally written favor, labor, vigor, while they are universally
pronounced, both in America and England, favur, labur, vigor.
Any change in the orthography of literary English ought at least
to be phonetic. Otherwise spelling should be let alone.

spelig refóym.

wid dís fonetík sistem ov wúld-igglis, tú rēmū'v difikultiz ov inišiša'sun in rēdig, and tú fuiniš a kē tú prōnunsia'sun, dēi wil bē les nēd for stryvig āfter rēfo'ym in ōdināri spelig. tú "rēfo'ym it oltūge'dei" wūd bē bēyo'nd dī skōp 'ov o'xōgra'fik rēfo'ymēz jenērali; yet nu'tig les đan dís wūd māk āúr r'itig fōnetik. spelig must rēmā'n a separāt ārt, piktō'rial in its nāt-yūr, and lēnd čēfi b'j. nevērđile's, meni čānjiz mā bē mād tú simplif'j dī āútlinz ov wurdz and rendēr đem mór ēzi ov rēme'mbrans. dī s'ilent letēr in dī tērminā'sunz -our and -ous, for egzā'mpl, mā wid adva'ntij bē ōmited; but, unfō'ityunāti, spelig "rēfo'ymēz" hav bin olre'di at wurk on dī fērst ov đēz silablz, and hav aktyuāli ōmited dī spōken letēr and rētā'nd dī s'ilent wun! đus, favour, labour, vigour, ār, in amē'rika, veri jenērali ritn favor, labor, vigor, w'jł đā āi yūnivē'rsali prōnā'ūnst, bōt in amē'rika and iggland, fāvur, lābur, vigur. eni čānj in dī o'xō'grafi ov litērāri igglis ōt at lēst tú bē fōnetik. uđēryw'yz spelig šūd bē let alō'n.

PHONETIC RULES.

The orthography in the foregoing illustrations of World-English might have been apparently simplified by the adoption of a few phonetic rules, such as:

I. The letters e and o, when final in monosyllables, are always pronounced long. With this rule the words mē, nō, &c., might be simply written me, no, &c.

II. The letter e before r in the same syllable is always pronounced ē. With this rule the words hēr, fērm, ērt, &c., might be simply written he'r, fe'rm, e'rt, &c.

III. The letters au are always, in combination, pronounced āū. With this rule the words āūt, nāū, &c., might be simply written aut, nau, &c.

Such rules may possibly find advocates. Here they are merely pointed out. The exact pronunciation of every syllable is, preferably, indicated throughout the illustrations in this book, so that no knowledge beyond that of the alphabetic elements is necessary to enable the learner to read the words with accuracy.

EPILOGUE

EVERY one has heard of the butcher, who, after a long search for his knife, at last found it in his mouth. So, speakers of English have been seeking for a Universal Language, when lo! it is in their mouths! The intelligibility of words has been obscured by a dense mist of letters. This is now dispersed in World-English; and the language stands revealed,—beyond comparison clear, simple, copious, and cosmopolitan,—the fitting tongue of Humanity.

epilog.

evəri wun haz hērd ov dī būçēr, hū, áftēr a lōg sērç fər hiz nɪf, at last fáund it in hiz máút. sō, spēkérz ov ingliʃ hav bin sēking fər a yūnivérsal langwij, wɛn lō! it iz in dēr máúdz! dī intelijibíłiti ov wúdz haz bin obskyúrd bɪ a dens mist ov letérz. dīs iz náu dispérst in wúld-ingliʃ; and dī langwij standz rēvēld—bēyo'nd kompa'risun klēr, simpl, kōpius, and koz-mópo'litan—dī fitig tug ov yúma'niti.

ERRATA.

p. 15, line 13, for janûâri, read janyûâri.

p. 18, line 2, for mind, read mînd.

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